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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application. Please cancel claims 2, 16 and 39; then amend claims 1, 17-22, 27 and 40-43 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of coating a vehicle wheel to increase wear and corrosion resistance of the vehicle wheel, comprising the steps of:

providing a vehicle wheel; and

applying about 0.006 inch or less of a wear and corrosion resistant coating to a tire bead seat area ~~onto a surface~~ of the vehicle wheel.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied to a tire bead retaining flange of the vehicle wheel.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle wheel is made of forged aluminum.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle wheel is made of cast aluminum.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises tungsten carbide.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the coating further comprises one of cobalt and chrome.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a nickel-based superalloy.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises aluminum and silicon carbide.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises stainless steel.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises nickel, chromium, iron, silicon, and boron, and optionally including chromium carbide or tungsten carbide.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by a method selected from the group consisting of cold spraying, thermal spraying, and triboelectric discharge kinetic spraying.

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13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by a method selected from the group consisting of high velocity combustion, low velocity combustion, plasma spray, and twin arc spraying.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by a method for improving wear conditions at temperatures up to about 1200° F.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of mechanically buffing the coating.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing ~~the surface of~~ the vehicle wheel by mechanically abrading ~~the a surface of~~ the vehicle wheel.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of mechanically abrading the surface of the vehicle wheel comprises one of mechanical roughening, knurling, and abrasive grit blasting at least the tire bead seat area ~~of the surface~~ of the vehicle wheel.

19. (Currently amended) The method of according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing ~~the surface of~~ the vehicle wheel by chemically etching ~~of the a surface of~~ the vehicle wheel.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preparing ~~the surface of~~ the vehicle wheel by high pressure water blasting ~~of the a~~ surface of the vehicle wheel.

21. (Currently amended) A coated wheel made according to the method of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises tungsten chrome carbide, optionally including cobalt, or a nickel-based superalloy and wherein the wheel is coated in at least a tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel.

22. (Currently amended) A vehicle wheel having a wear and corrosion resistant coating applied to ~~the surface of the vehicle wheel~~ at least on a tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel, the coating having a thickness of ~~between about 0.004-0.01~~ 0.006 inch ~~or less on the~~ surface.

23. (Original) The vehicle wheel of claim 22, wherein the coating comprises tungsten carbide.

24. (Original) The vehicle wheel of claim 23, wherein the coating further comprises one of cobalt and chrome.

25. (Original) The vehicle wheel of claim 22, wherein the coating comprises a nickel-based superalloy.

26. (Original) The vehicle wheel of claim 22, wherein the coating is applied to a bead seat retaining flange.

27. (Currently amended) A method of coating an existing vehicle wheel to improve wear and corrosion resistance of the vehicle wheel, comprising the steps of:

- providing a used vehicle wheel;
- preparing a surface tire bead seat area of the used vehicle wheel; and
- applying a wear and corrosion coating onto the surface tire bead seat area of the used vehicle wheel, ~~the said coating applied at least to a bead seat area of the vehicle wheel~~ having a thickness of about 0.006 inch or less.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the coating is applied to a tire bead retaining flange of the vehicle wheel.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the vehicle wheel is made of forged aluminum.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the vehicle wheel is made of cast aluminum.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating comprises tungsten carbide.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating further comprises one of cobalt and chrome.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating comprises a nickel-based superalloy.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating comprises aluminum and silicon carbide.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating comprises stainless steel.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating comprises nickel, chromium, iron, silicon, and boron, and optionally including chromium carbide or tungsten carbide.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating is applied by a method selected from the group consisting of cold spraying, thermal spraying, and triboelectric discharge kinetic spraying.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 27, wherein the coating is applied by a method selected from the group consisting of high velocity combustion, low velocity combustion, plasma spray and twin arc spraying.

40. (Currently amended) The method of according to claim 27, further comprising the step of wherein said preparing step includes the surface of the vehicle wheel by mechanically abrading at least the surface tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel.

41. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 40, wherein the step of said mechanically abrading the surface of the vehicle wheel step comprises one of mechanical roughening, knurling, and abrasive grit blasting of the surface tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel.

42. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of wherein said preparing step includes the surface of the vehicle wheel by chemically etching of at least the surface tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel.

43. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of wherein said preparing step includes the surface of the vehicle wheel by high pressure water blasting of at least the surface tire bead seat area of the vehicle wheel.